there is no pending proposal as of now under consideration of the Ministry of Coal from any Multi National Company seeking involvement in coal sector.

**Betal Research Centre in Orissa**

3536. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the losses suffered by betal leaf growers in North Balasore area are due to non identification of diseases in betal cultivation and adoption of primitive methods of cultivation;

(b) if so, whether the government propose to establish a Betal Research Centre at Bhograi area of North Balasore Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, the disease that caused the loss has been identified as Anthragnose. This disease can be controlled by using fungicides.

(b) and (c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is already operating an All India Coordinated Research Project on Betalvine. It has a Centre at the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology which covers North Balasore area.

**Plans for Stopping Flaring of Gas**

3537. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether the Government have any plans for stopping flaring of gas and using this as domestic fuel in to save forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): Yes, Sir. Various schemes for setting up additional compression and transportation capacity for gas are being implemented in the Western offshore and onshore Gujarat in order to increase the utilisation of flared gas. Allocation of gas have been made for supply as domestic fuel in the following cities :-

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. | Baroda |
| 2. | Bharuch - Ankleshwar |
| 3. | Sibsagar |
| 4. | Duliajan |
| 5. | Moran |
| 6. | Surat |
| 7. | Agartala |
| 8. | Bombay |

**Production of Steel by VISL**

3538. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the installed production capacity of Steel in the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL), Bhadravati, Karnataka;

(b) the various types of steel produced in VISL;

(c) whether the Union government propose to increase the production capacity of steel there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?